

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please delete Claims 1-24, and 32-52 examined in the parent case.

Please amend the following claims:

25. A process for producing an elongated electrode for use in a laser comprising the steps of:

- a) fabricating an elongated electrode structure comprised of one or more electrical conducting materials and having a long dimension of at least 50 centimeters and a width of at least 3 centimeters.
- b) creating a porous insulating layer on a portion of ~~said the~~ elongated electrode, ~~said~~ the portion defining a discharge region having a width of at least 3 millimeters.

26. A process as in Claim 25 wherein ~~said the~~ one or more electrical conducting materials comprise a lead rich brass having a lead content of greater than 1 percent, and ~~said~~ the step of creating ~~said the~~ porous electrical insulating layer comprises operating ~~said the~~ electrode in a fluorine containing laser gas to permit a porous insulating layer to build up on the lead rich brass.

27. A process as in Claim 25 wherein ~~said the~~ step of creating ~~said the~~ porous insulating layer comprises spreading insulating particles on the discharge region of ~~said the~~ elongated electrode structure.

28. A process as in Claim 25 wherein ~~said the~~ step of creating ~~said the~~ porous insulating layer comprises the steps of:

- a) mixing insulating particles in a molten metal to produce a discharge section of ~~said the~~ elongated electrode ~~said the~~ section comprising a filler metal and ~~said the~~ insulating particles,
- b) operating ~~said the~~ elongated electrode in a fluorine containing laser gas environment to permit a portion of ~~said the~~ filler metal to sputter away leaving a porous insulating layer covering ~~said the~~ discharge region.

29. A process as in Claim 28 wherein said the insulating particles have dimensions in the range of about 50 to 150 microns.

30. A process as in Claim 28 wherein said the particles have dimensions in the range of about 50 to 150 microns.

31. A process as in Claim 25 wherein said the step of creation of porous insulating layer includes the substeps of creating:

- a. creating a plurality of nucleation sites on said the discharge surface;
- b. operating said the electrode in a laser containing fluorine gas so as to permit said the porous insulating layer to grow on said the discharge surface.